

Appl. No. 09/977,930
Amdt. dated Nov. 18, 2005
Reply to Office action of Sep. 20, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a container having an outermost wall that is formed at least in part by a flexible top sheet,
the container further including a fluid receiving port, a fluid discharge port, and a
plurality of compartments fluidly coupled to at least one of the fluid receiving port
and the fluid discharge port;

wherein the fluid receiving port is configured to receive a continuous flow of a biological
fluid that includes a target antigen, and wherein the fluid discharge port is configured
to emit a continuous flow of the biological fluid that is at least partially depleted of
the target antigen while at the same time the fluid receiving port receives the
continuous flow of the biological fluid;

wherein at least one of the compartments further comprises a plurality of magnetic beads
that carry an affinity marker that binds the target antigen; and

wherein the target antigen is separated from the biological fluid using a magnetic force
and an automatic mechanical force, wherein the magnetic force and the automatic
mechanical force are transmitted through the flexible top sheet.
2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the compartments
includes a fluid selected from the group consisting of a buffer, a wash fluid, an isotonic
fluid, and an elution fluid.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the affinity marker is selected
from the group consisting of an antibody, an antibody fragment, and a lectin.

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4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the compartments further includes a port that allows draining of the at least one of the compartments.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the biological fluid comprises whole blood.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target antigen is present on any of a stem cell, a diseased cell, a bacterium, and a virus.